

Alfred HEINRICH
Serial No. 09/777,866
November 12, 2004

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application are solicited.

By way of the amendment instructions above, independent claims 1 and 20 are proposed to be revised so as to clarify the therein claimed subject matter. Specifically, each such independent claim has been revised so as to emphasize that the intermediary component comprises plural projections while the filled plastic component includes plural recesses which oppose the plural projections of the intermediary component.

Claim 1 also emphasizes that the respective structural interaction between the projections and recesses is such to connect the opposed first and second axial faces of the filled plastic component and the basic body one to another by means of frictional and/or positive connection. This latter revision of course reinstates language therein which was present in the originally filed version of claim 1.

Claim 11 has been cancelled as inconsistent with the amendment proposed to claim 1. Moreover, revisions are also proposed to be made to many of the dependent claims as needed so as to conform the same to the amended version of independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 12-24 remain pending herein following entry of the subject amendment.

The only issues remaining to be resolved in this application are the Examiner's rejections based principally on the applied Burleigh patent (USP 2,810,239). In this regard, prior claims 1-14 and 17-24 attracted a rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Burleigh while claims 1-24 attracted a rejection under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burleigh in view of Simjian (USP

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2,735,232). Applicants respectfully suggest that neither Burleigh nor Simjian are appropriate references against the presently claimed invention.

In this regard, the Examiner is apparently reading the outer flat ring surface 5 in Figure 3 in Burleigh as being a "projection" while the outer flat ring surface 2 in Figure 4 of Burleigh is apparently being read as a "recess". Given such an overly broad interpretation, it is quite clear that Burleigh cannot possibly anticipate the presently claimed invention since there clearly are no **plural** projections or recesses disclosed or even remotely contemplated by Burleigh.

Nor can the combination of Burleigh and Simjian render "obvious" the presently claimed invention. In this regard, the Examiner is apparently citing Simjian for its disclosure of magnetic particles as a filler material. The Examiner thus asserts that one could employ such magnetic particles as a filler in the rings of Burleigh. As noted above, however, even if such a combination might be envisioned by an ordinarily skilled persons, the present invention would not be the result.

Moreover, applicants note that claim 1 pending herein requires that the projections of the intermediary are received within the recesses of the filled plastic component **so as to connect indirectly** the opposed respective first and second axial faces of the filled plastic component and the basic body one to another. Thus, according to the present invention, the projections of the intermediary component are received (or embedded) within respective recesses to form a **direct** connection between such intermediary and the plastic component which, in turn, connects the basic body (which is fixed to the intermediary component) and the filled plastic component **indirectly**.

The connection of the components 3, 5 and 2 disclosed in the Burleigh patent is distinctly different from that achieved by the present invention. In this regard, the component 2 and the component 2 are directly connected to one another by means of

the shaft 1, and the clamping element 15. The component 5 on the other hand has no connecting function at all for indirectly connecting the opposed axial faces of the components 2 and 3 one to the other. Thus, Burleigh provides no guidance at all with respect to the connections as defined in the presently pending claims.

The object of the present invention is to create a connection between a plastic component which is highly filled (e.g., a plastic bonded permanent magnet, and a basic body which avoids the occurrence of cracks in the plastic component under changing thermal conditions. As noted in the second paragraph of page 2 of the originally filed specification, according to the invention this object is solved by fixing the plastic component, not directly onto the basic body, but indirectly via at least one intermediary made of a plastic material, with the intermediary being connected to the highly filled plastic component by means of engaged projections and recesses which serve to form a frictional and/or positive connection therebetween. Due to this structural arrangement, the intermediary absorbs for the most part contraction strains of the highly filled plastic component under changing thermal conditions. As such, cracks forming in the highly filled plastic component may be avoided.

The structural and functional relationship of the present invention as described above, is clearly and unobviously distinguishable from the principal object of Burleigh as disclosed at column 1, lines 23-27 – namely, to provide a resilient or cushioning coupling construction for connecting the abrasive element of the holder to the drive shaft. The Burleigh device is entirely different as to structure, function and effect as compared to the present invention since the backing pad 5 of rubber or some other similar resilient material does not possess any projections which are received within corresponding recesses of a plastic component to form a frictional and/or positive connection therebetween.

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Thus, in view of the above, the presently claimed invention likewise cannot be "obvious" under 35 USC §103(a) based on Burleigh and Simjian. Withdrawal of such rejection is therefore in order.

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks presented above, early receipt of the Official Allowance Notice is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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